

ISA VP Research Letter #1: Improving communication among RC/WG/TG presidents

To the presidents of the Research Committees, Working Groups and Thematic Groups of the International Sociological Association

Dear colleagues,

It was a pleasure meeting most of you in Toronto. I hope to have plenty of opportunities getting to know each of you and I look very much forward working together to develop exciting activities in each of our RCs and at the ISA level, together with ISA new president Sari Hanafi.

Improving communication among RC/WG/TG presidents as well as between RC presidents and the ISA Executive Council will be two of my priorities in the next four years. In this perspective, I will send you regular letters, each focused on specific topics and providing concrete information. For instance, one of the next letter will provide some early information on the preparation of the 2020 ISA Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

This very first "VP Research letter" is precisely dedicated to a series of initiatives to improve communication between RC/WG/TG presidents, including a new mailing list and a RC presidents' directory. I have also included the list of the priorities I would like to pursue as vice-president for research during the next four years.

My main objective as VP research is to help you to develop your RC and your projects. Do not hesitate to contact me. Together with the newly elected members of the EC Research Council Committee (RCC), we will do our best to help you. Please note that the EC Research Council is still in an early organization process and that we may thus need some more time to reply to more substantial questions and demands.

I look very much forward to working together in the next four years to foster a more global sociology that has an important role to play in a world where the future of democracy is at stake.

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1. *Priorities as Vice-President for Research*

Based on the project I presented in Toronto and on numerous conversations with past and newly elected RC presidents during the congress, my priorities as ISA vice-president for research will be the following ones:

1. To support Research Committee's initiatives.
2. To improve communication and mutual support among RCs and particularly among RC presidents.
3. To improve the communication between RC presidents and officers and the ISA Executive Committee. RC presidents will be better informed about the ongoing the agenda and ongoing debates in the EC. They will be consulted on the key points proposed by the Research Council Committees and channels will be set to make RC presidents' voices heard at the EC, whether about points that are on the EC agenda or on new proposals that emerge from various RCs.
4. The organisation of the World Forum of Sociology in 2020 in Porto Alegre.
5. To contribute to improve active participation of students and scholars of "B and C countries" at ISA events.
6. To foster connections and collaborations between ISA research committees and regional and national committees of other sociological associations.

2. *Communication and collaborations between RC presidents*

Fostering **communication and mutual support among the RC presidents** is particularly important at the beginning of our mandates. The following four tools or proposals will be developed in that perspective.

1. The **RC presidents' mailing list** as a space for your comments, questions, suggestions and exchanges among RC presidents. (see below)
2. **RC presidents "who is who"**. (see below)
3. **Regional or national meetings among RC presidents and vice-presidents** will be organized in different occasions, notably during international congresses or conferences. Personal meetings and direct contact are both more pleasant and more efficient than e-mail exchanges.
4. There will be a **meeting of the Research Council** (that includes all the RC presidents) on the day following the ISA Forum in Porto Alegre as well as a brief information meeting at the beginning of the Forum.

Suggestions for additional projects and tools are very welcome.

3. A new mailing list for RC/WG/TG presidents

As a past president of RC47, I know that to chair a Research Committee is exciting and allows developing great projects. I also know RC presidents sometimes feel alone and overwhelmed by a range of tasks, about which we lack information, training and experience. During my mandate, I was fortunate to count with other RCs that helped me solving practical issues and with who I could share my projects as well as my questions and doubts.

This will be some of the aims of our new mailing list of the RC/WG/GT presidents:
isa-rcpresidents@listes.uclouvain.be

It aims at **fostering mutual support among RC presidents and opening a space for sharing suggestions, questions, doubts and good practices**. It will provide us with a space to get to know each other, to circulate practical information and to raise points that we would like fellow RC presidents to discuss and/or the ISA Executive Committee to deal with.

The list will focus on organizational matters and on the internal communication of the ISA. It will not diffuse conference announcements, calls for papers or new publications, as the ISA provides various other channels for these purposes.

4. RC/TG/WG presidents Who is Who

In order to getting to know each other, I propose to gather brief presentations of all the RC presidents in a short document.

May I ask you to send me a picture of you as well as a 5 to 10 lines bionote that mentions the country where you are based and the ones you regularly visit for research or teaching? You may also add a brief statement (5 lines) with your priorities and the main projects you want to develop as president of your RC.

Please send it to me before October 5th in an e-mail with the title "RC presidents Who is Who".